

CLAIMS

1. A polypeptide, derivative or analogue thereof comprising a tandem repeat of apoE₁₄₁₋₁₄₉ of SEQ ID No 2 or a truncation thereof, characterised in that at least one Leucine (L) residue of SEQ ID No. 2 is replaced by an amino acid with a side chain comprising at least 4 carbon atoms and at least one Nitrogen atom.
2. The polypeptide, derivative or analogue thereof according to claim 1 wherein the amino acid used to replace the Leucine is Tryptophan (W), Arginine (R) or Lysine (K) or derivatives thereof.
3. The polypeptide, derivative or analogue thereof according to claim 2 wherein the amino acid used to replace the Leucine is Tryptophan (W) or a derivative thereof.
4. The polypeptide, derivative or analogue thereof according to any one of claims 1-3 wherein at least two W, R or K substitutions are made.
5. The polypeptide, derivative or analogue thereof according to any one of claims 1-4 wherein at least one further amino acid is replaced with Asparagine (N), Tyrosine (Y), Cysteine (C), Methionine (M), Phenylalanine (F), Isoleucine (I), Glutamine (Q), Histidine (H) or is deleted.
6. The polypeptide, derivative or analogue thereof according to any one of claims 1-4 with the amino acid sequence: WRKWRKRWWRKWRKRWW (SEQ ID No. 3); WRKWRKRWRKWRKR (SEQ ID No. 4); WRKWRKRWWLRKLRKRL (SEQ ID No. 5); YRKYRKRYYYRKYRKRY (SEQ ID No. 6); WRKWRKRWWRKWRKRWW (SEQ ID No. 52); WRKWRKRWRKWRKRW (SEQ ID No. 53); WRKWRKRWWFRKWRKRWW (SEQ ID No. 54); WRKWRKRWWFRKWRKRFF (SEQ ID No. 55); WRKCRKRCWWRKCRKRCW (SEQ ID No. 56); LRKLRKRLLRKWRKRWW (SEQ ID No. 57); LRKLRKRLLLRKLRKRWW (SEQ ID No. 58); LRKLRKRLLRKWRKRLL (SEQ ID No. 59); WRKWRKRLLLRKLRKRL (SEQ ID No. 60); WRKLRKRLLLRKLRKRL (SEQ ID No. 61); WRKWRKFFFRKWRKRWW (SEQ ID No. 62); WRKWRKRWWFRKFRKRFF (SEQ ID No. 63);

RRKRRKRRRRRKRRKRRR (SEQ ID No. 64) ; or
 KRKKRKRKKKRKKRKRKK (SEQ ID No. 65)

7. The polypeptide, derivative or analogue according to any preceding claim wherein an amino acid is added to the peptide.

8. The polypeptide, derivative or analogue according to claim 8 wherein the amino acid is added to the N terminal, C terminal and/or between the 9th and 10th amino acids of SEQ ID No.2

9. The polypeptide, derivative or analogue according to claim 8 comprising WRKWRKRWRWRKWRKRWR (SEQ ID No. 66).

10. The polypeptide, derivative or analogue according to any preceding claim which is a peptoid analogue.

11. The polypeptide, derivative or analogue according to any preceding claim which is a peptide/peptoid hybrid.

12. A polypeptide, derivative or analogue thereof comprising YRKYRKRYYYRKYRKRY (SEQ ID No. 6)

13. A polypeptide, derivative or analogue thereof comprising LRKLRKRLLRKLRK (SEQ ID No. 7).

14. A polypeptide, derivative or analogue thereof comprising LRKLRKRLRKLRR (SEQ ID No. 8).

15. A polypeptide, derivative or analogue thereof comprising LRKLRKLRKLRKLRK (SEQ ID No. 9).

16. A polypeptide, derivative or analogue according to any preceding claim for use as a medicament.

17. The use of a polypeptide, derivative or analogue according to any one of claims 1 - 15 in the manufacture of a medicament for treating viral infections.
18. The use of an agent capable of increasing the biological activity of a polypeptide, derivative or analogue according to any one of claims 1 - 15 in the manufacture of a medicament for treating viral infections.
19. A method of preventing and/or treating a viral infection, comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a polypeptide, derivative or analogue according to any preceding claim.
20. A nucleic acid sequence encoding a polypeptide, derivative or analogue according to any of claims 1- 15.
21. A nucleic acid sequence according to claim 20 for use as a medicament.
22. A method of preventing and/or treating a viral infection comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a nucleic acid sequence according to claim 20 or 21.